

Director's Report

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WASHINGTON
HIGHER
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COORDINATING BOARD

State leaders honor Washington Scholars at banquet

By Marc Gaspard

The 2002 Washington Scholars recognition ceremony in April drew hundreds of students, families, school officials and elected officials to a gala banquet here in Olympia.

The 147 students chosen as Scholars have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement, leadership ability and community service.

Once again, I was delighted to share the head table with some of the state's champions of education, including Gov. Gary Locke, Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Terry Bergeson, and Rolland Johnson, president of the Washington Association of Secondary School Principals.

Brian Barker, executive director of the Association of Washington School Principals, officiated as master of ceremonies for the event.

LeAnn Talbot of AT&T Broadband represented her company, the luncheon sponsor.

Dr. Bergeson offered brief remarks about the need to recognize the efforts of both outstanding students and outstanding faculty.

She mentioned the growing need for teachers in mathematics and sciences, and said the state will continue to look for ways to meet students' needs.

2002 Washington Scholars Day

Calling this year's top high school seniors the "best examples of Washington's bright future," Gov. Locke challenged the Scholars to keep their goals high and their dreams alive.

Locke said the Scholars are "living, breathing examples of what's great about our state," and he applauded their dedication to improving the world around them.

The governor challenged the students to "dream big dreams -- to be pioneers, to be the first. Be the first in your families, your communities, or your country: the first zoologist, or brain surgeon, or president of the United States."

The governor also spent a few minutes accommodating the many requests for photos and autographs from students and families.

Many legislators had a chance to meet the students and their families at the luncheon.

The Washington Scholars program, which the Board administers in cooperation with the Washington Association of School Principals, honors the accomplishments of three

high school seniors from each of the 49 legislative districts in the state.

Washington Scholars receive state grants that provide nearly four years of undergraduate resident tuition that can be used at any Washington public or independent college or university.

Statewide, high school principals nominate the top one percent of their graduating senior classes as Scholar candidates.

A selection committee, composed of high school principals and college admissions staff, reviews the candidates' applications to select the top four students in each legislative district, naming three as scholars and one as a scholar alternate.

This year, more than 650 students were nominated. **Ann Lee** manages the program for the HECB.

Students and their families also were invited to attend other ceremonies honoring their accomplishments.

Both chambers of the Legislature presented honorary resolutions to the Scholars. Students and their families also were invited to attend a series of interest sessions on a wide variety of topics.

HECB staff earn national recognition for their work on tuition report

Three HECB staff were acknowledged for their contributions in a national report on tuition trends.

Kathy Raudenbush, John Fricke and **Brule Hembree** earned credit for their hard work in the recently released report, "Losing Ground," by the National Center for Higher Education in San Jose, Calif.

Pat Callan, president of the center, cited their work as major contributions to the study.

The report garnered national press coverage, including the *New York Times*, *Chronicle of Higher Education* and the *Washington Post*.

The staff sent out a tuition survey to all states in September of last year.

They reviewed the data for accuracy and compiled a data base that served as the basis for the Callan report, as well as the annual HECB Tuition and Fee Report.

Many thanks to Kathy, John and Brule for their tireless efforts to help the Center in its work on public policy issues in higher education.

ACT study links state standards to national progress

At the Board's request, ACT, Inc. recently conducted a content alignment study between Washington's Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs) and the skills and knowledge measured in three ACT programs.

The alignment analysis was conducted as part of a four-state study of the ACT assessments as tools for K-16 curriculum alignment.

Other states participating in the study are Oklahoma, Missouri, and South Carolina.

Federal supplemental GEAR UP funds paid for the study.

This is an important research study that links Washington's academic standards positively with national standards.

The ACT review of the EALRs reveals a good match between the state's standards for writing, reading, mathematics, and science and the ACT Standards for Transition in its programs.

ACT's comparative analysis of the content of the Washington EALRs and the skills and knowledge measured in the ACT system reveals a good match between the state's standards for writing, reading, mathematics and

science and the ACT Standards for Transition.

This means Washington's established results for what students should know and be able to do line up with the national standards that ACT has developed for successful preparation for college.

The alignment between the EALRs and the ACT Standards for Transition is one indicator that Washington's school reform efforts will give all students access to the kind of rigorous academic preparation required for successful study after high school.

HECB staff outreach includes appearances at university classrooms

For at least three HECB staff members, university classrooms have become part of their outreach efforts.

Bruce Botka, director of governmental relations and policy, addressed a graduate class in educational leadership at the University of Washington on May 21.

Bruce met with 12 students in Dr. James Valadez's course (Educational Leadership and Policy Studies 580), titled, "The American College and University."

Bruce described the roles and responsibilities of the HECB in the context of the overall governance of public higher education in Washington, and discussed the board's strategic planning role as embodied in the Master Plan.

John Fricke, associate director for fiscal and policy analysis, was invited to lecture before a graduate class in educational leadership and policy studies at the UW. The event was coordinated jointly by the Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs and

Betty Gebhardt honored

The Western Association of Student Employment Administrators honored **Betty Gebhardt**, associate director for education services, with its Distinguished Service Award for her work representing the group at the National Student Employment Association federal relations committee. Congratulations, Betty.

the College of Education.

The class consisted mostly of employed people with experience or interest in higher education issues.

They covered a myriad of issues, including the role of the HECB in state higher education policy, the Master Plan, enrollment forecasts, upper-division access goals, distance education and challenges for the future of higher education.

HECB Communications Director **Barbara Dunn** also spent two days at

Western Washington University at the invitation of the Department of Journalism as part of its Visiting Professional program.

She spoke to students in journalism and public relations majors.

They discussed ethics in journalism and public relations, career opportunities in both fields, public disclosure from the point of view of a government agency and a news organization, and communicating with a wide variety of audiences.

Agency takes in-depth look at IT system needs

The HECB has been assessing its information technology systems to prepare for future needs.

Milestone Technology, a systems consulting firm, has been reviewing the current system to see how it manages financial aid and data collection programs.

The firm worked with HECB staff to learn how technology can better serve programs and customers.

Team members used state Department of Information Systems

guidance to come up with eight approaches for a long-term strategy.

The agency evaluated these eight approaches, based on their ability to meet agency needs and cost estimates.

Board staff currently are reviewing the recommended options and further analyzing the costs.

Once the agency decides on an option, the HECB will begin a design phase, followed by implementation.

Joann Wiszmann is managing the project for the agency.



GET statistics* as of May 2002

23,961 total participants in program (**10,665** new enrollments this year; last year was 2,855)
7,592 new enrollments in May 2002
\$118 current account value (excluding future payment value)

* preliminary estimates